
ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

NEWS RELEASE



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304 Lake Street Room 103
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Date: May 25, 2012
Time: 12:15 p.m.

SOUTHEAST ALASKA SPRING TROLL FISHERY ANNOUNCEMENT

Sitka. . . The Alaska Department of Fish and Game announced today the following information concerning the commercial spring troll fishery:

The spring troll areas and Terminal Harvest Areas (THA) listed below **will remain open until further notice:**

Ketchikan (101-29)	West Behm Canal (101-90)	Neets Bay THA (101-95)
Clarence Strait (106-20)	Steamer Point (106-30)	Ernest Sound (107-10)
Anita Bay THA (107-35)	Port Armstrong THA (109-11)	Frederick Sound (110-31)
Chatham Strait (112-12)	Hidden Falls THA (112-22)	Sitka Sound (113-41)

The spring troll areas listed below will be open according to the following schedule. All areas will open at 12:01 a.m. of the opening date and close at 11:59 p.m. of the closing date. The openings may be extended if the Alaska hatchery contributions are high. Information on extensions will be given in a future news release.

Ketchikan Areas:

West Rock (101-21)	May 30-31
Point Alava (101-41)	June 1-2
Kendrick Bay (102-10)	May 27-29

Petersburg/Wrangell areas:

Sumner Strait (105-41)	May 27-29
Snow Pass (106-41)	May 30- June 1
Chichagof Pass (108-10)	May 29-31
Baht Harbor (108-30)	May 29-30
Craig Point (108-40)	May 29-30

Chatham Strait areas:

Little Port Walter (109-10)	May 30- June 1
Tebenkof Bay (109-62)	May 28-30

Sitka area:

Western Channel (113-01)	May 29
Redoubt Bay (113-30)	May 29-30
Biorka Island (113-31)	May 29
Goddard (113-32)	May 29
Salisbury Sound (113-62)	May 29-31

North Chatham Strait, Icy Strait and Pelican areas:

Lisianski Inlet (113-95) May 28-30

Port Althorp (114-50) May 28-30

The following areas will open May 27- June 2:

Hawk Inlet (112-65) Stag Bay (113-97)

South Passage (114-23) Homeshore (114-25)

Cross Sound (114-21)

Point Sophia (114-27)

AREA DESCRIPTION CLARIFICATIONS:

Biorka Island (Fishery area 113-31): In waters of Sitka Sound south and east of a line from the northernmost tip of **Hanus Point (56°51.81' N. latitude, 135°30.40' W. longitude)** to the northwesternmost point on Peisar Island, south and west of a line from the northwesternmost point on Peisar Island to the southernmost point on Peisar Island to the southernmost point on Viesokoi Rock to a **point on Baranof Island at 56°51.72' N. latitude, 135°23.21' W. longitude**, to the southernmost point on Torsar Island to the northernmost point on Legma Island to the southernmost point on Legma Island, and north and east of a line from the southernmost point on Legma Island to the southernmost point on Liesnoi Island to Point Woodhouse.

Goddard Area (Fishery area 113-32): In waters enclosed by a line **Baranof Island at 56°51.72' N. latitude, 135°23.21' W. longitude**, to the southernmost point on Torsar Island to the northernmost point on Legma Island to the northernmost tip of Elovoi Island, and north and west of a line from 56°49.47' N. latitude, 135°23.05' W. longitude, to a point on Baranof Island at 56°49.63' N. latitude, 135°22.51' W. longitude.

DEEP INLET TERMINAL HARVEST AREA (113-38):

Beginning May 27, the waters of Deep Inlet THA will be managed on a rotational gear fishing schedule. From May 27 through June 16, the waters of Deep Inlet west of 135°20.75' W. longitude, are included in the Sitka Sound spring troll area. Beginning June 17, all waters within the Deep Inlet THA boundaries will be excluded from the Sitka Sound spring troll area. A description of THA boundaries and fishing schedules can be found in the Deep Inlet news release issued April 18. The first troll opening in the Deep Inlet THA will be on Saturday, June 2.

FREDERICK SOUND AREA (110-31):

Beginning June 1, the Frederick Sound area will be extended to include those waters of District 10 that are north and west of a line from Wood Point (56°59.75' N. latitude, 132°56.95' W. longitude) to Beacon Point, excluding waters of Farragut Bay north and east of a line from Bay Point to Grand Point and also excluding those waters of Thomas Bay that are north and east of a line from Point Vandeput (57°01.25' N. latitude, 133°00.00' W. longitude) to Wood Point.

DIRECTED KING SALMON FISHERIES

Directed fisheries in Districts 8 and 11 will be CLOSED until further notice. The first inseason abundance estimate for both the Stikine and Taku River project a terminal run size that is well below the preseason forecast and is not large enough to implement directed king salmon fisheries. Spring troll fisheries to target Alaska hatchery-produced Chinook salmon will open in District 8.

DISTRICT 8 SPRING TROLL AREA DESCRIPTIONS

Chichagof Pass (108-10): Waters of Chichagof Pass and Zimovia Strait in Section 8-B south of 56°24.50' N. latitude, and east of a line from Reef Point to a point on Etolin Island at 56°20.10' N. latitude, 132°32.00' W. longitude.

Baht Harbor (Fishery area 108-30): In Sumner Strait, waters of Section 8-B east of the District 8 western boundary and west of a line from the eastern entrance of Blind Slough to the Craig Point light.

Craig Point (Fishery area 108-40): Waters of Section 8-B in Sumner and Stikine Strait south and east of a line from Craig Point Light to Neal Point Light to Wedge Point and west of a line from Reef Point to a point on Etolin Island at 56°20.10' N. latitude, 132°32.00' W. longitude.

2012 Spring and Directed Troll Preliminary Chinook Harvest and Effort				
Spring Troll Area	<i>Current Week (sw 21)</i>		<i>Cumulative</i>	
	Landings	Harvest	Landings	Harvest
West Rock (101-21)			*	*
Ketchikan (101-29)	10	90	40	288
Point Alava (101-41)			*	*
Kendrick Bay (102-10)	4	56	8	92
Sumner Strait (105-41)	12	82	33	191
Steamer Point (106-30)			*	*
Snow Pass (106-41)			*	*
Ernest Sound (107-10)	*	*	5	43
District 8 (Directed Fishery)	15	39	53	181
Little Port Walter (109-10)			24	385
Tebenkof Bay (109-62)	4	38	37	773
Frederick Sound (110-31)			5	54
District 11 (Directed Fishery)			*	*
Chatham Strait (112-12)	6	87	29	403
Western Channel (113-01)	7	45	16	84
Redoubt Bay (113-30)	13	84	47	268
Biorka Island (113-31)	15	45	15	45
Goddard (113-32)	*	*	*	*
Sitka Sound (113-41)	20	104	61	258
Salisbury Sound (113-62)	6	37	12	55
Lisianski Inlet (113-95)			4	17
Stag Bay (113-97)	*	*	*	*
Cross Sound (114-21)			5	40
South Passage (114-23)			*	*
Homeshore (114-25)			5	29
Point Sophia (114-27)			*	*
Port Althorp (114-50)			5	46
Totals for Region	116	742	422	3,349
*Data is confidential when harvest for fewer than 3 permits is reported				

CODED-WIRE-TAGGED FISH

The heads of all adipose fin-clipped salmon must remain attached to the fish until the fish are sold [5 AAC 29.140 (b)]. Permit holders who freeze their catch onboard are asked to contact the department prior to fishing so that sampling and fish ticket issues can be discussed. An Exemption Permit is required to allow the removal of heads from Chinook salmon harvested in the spring areas prior to delivery.

CATCH REPORTING

It is extremely important to keep fish caught in different fishery areas separated so that accurate dockside sampling can occur by department personnel. In order to maximize the harvest of Alaska hatchery-produced Chinook salmon in the spring fisheries, catches must be reported accurately. If more than one area or fishery is fished, or fish are kept for more than one period, each troller and tender is required to keep and report these catches separately on separate fish tickets (5AAC 29.130). The fishery name and the fishery area number must be reported on all fish tickets, as well as dates that the fishing trip started and ended. All fish legally retained in the commercial salmon troll fishery, whether for sale or retained for **personal use** (condition code 95) **must be recorded on a fish ticket**. Coho salmon may not be retained until June 15, unless an earlier date is announced in a future news release. That date is one of several pending regulation changes adopted at the 2012 Board of Fisheries meeting.

NEW REGULATIONS ADOPTED BY THE ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES

During the Board of Fisheries (BOF) meeting held in Ketchikan from February 24–March 4, new regulations were adopted that relate to the 2012 spring troll fisheries. *These new regulations are not expected to take effect until late June.* **Coho salmon retention is not allowed until June 15.**

GROUND FISH BYCATCH

Fishermen are reminded that the season for lingcod bycatch opened in the salmon troll fishery on May 16. The lingcod season will remain open through November 30, or until lingcod area allocations are taken, whichever occurs first. All lingcod retained must measure at least 27 inches from tip of snout to the tip of the tail, or 20.5 inches from the front of the dorsal fin to the tip of the tail. Salmon trollers may not retain lingcod in the waters of Sitka Sound as defined in 5 AAC 28.150 (a). For additional information on groundfish bycatch in the salmon troll fishery, refer to the department news release issued on April 23 or contact the groundfish staff in Sitka at 907-747-6688.

The emergency orders corresponding with this announcement are 1S0612, 1S1712.

The **2012 Spring Troll Management Plan, which includes maps** of the spring areas, is available at all regional ADF&G offices and is on the troll fishery website at:

http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=commercialbyareasoutheast.salmon_managementplans.

The troll fishery website can be found at:

<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=commercialbyareasoutheast.salmon>.

News releases web site: <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=cfnews.main>.

Office	Ketchikan	Petersburg	Wrangell	Sitka	Juneau	Haines	Hoonah	Yakutat
ADFG	225-5195	772-3801	874-3822	747-6688	465-4250	766-2830		784-3255
AWT	225-5111	772-3983		747-3254	465-4000		945-3620	
Troll Hotline	225-6870	772-3700		747-8765	465-8765			

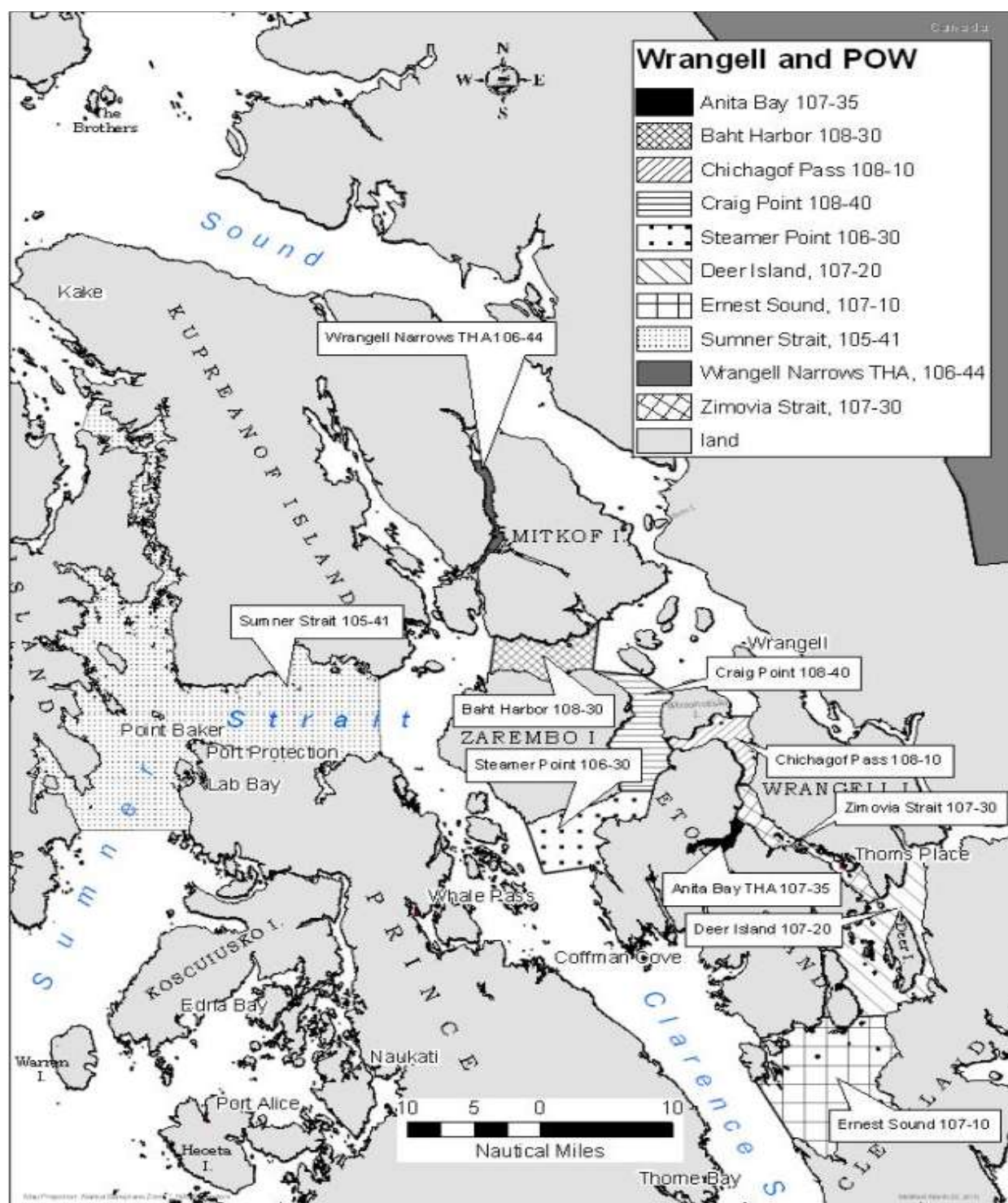


Figure 1.– Wrangell/ Prince of Wales spring troll fishery areas 5-29-12.